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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/522,821	02/02/2005	Nicholas C DiCampli	029021.0001	2203

22467 7590 04/17/2006

WILLIAMS MULLEN  
FOUNTAIN PLAZA THREE, SUITE 200  
721 LAKEFRONT COMMONS  
NEWPORT NEWS, VA 23606

EXAMINER

AVILA, STEPHEN P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3617

DATE MAILED: 04/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/522,821	Applicant(s) DICAMPLI, NICHOLAS C	
	Examiner Stephen Avila	Art Unit 3617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 February 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

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1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-10, 12, 13, and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jorgenson in view of Seno et al. Jorgenson discloses the basic claimed apparatus and method for mooring a boat to a piling including a mooring line 41, rolling elements 50, and a piling 23. Not disclosed by Jorgenson are tapered rolling elements with spacers and stops. Seno et al discloses a line R with tapered elements 1, spacers 2, and stops 3. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the device of Jorgenson with tapered elements, spacers and stops as taught by Seno et al to allow the elements to more freely move along the rope for improved mooring. Additionally, an obvious choice of engineering design to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been to form the device of Jorgenson of the particular materials claimed for improved durability and mooring.

3. Claims 11, 14, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jorgenson in view of Seno et al as applied to claims 1-10, 12, 13, and 15-18 above, and further in view of Pollock. Jorgenson does not disclose a knot. Pollock discloses a knot 15. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the stop of Jorgenson, as combined with Seno et al above, as a knot for ease of use and low cost as taught by Pollock.

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4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Stone shows rollers.
5. A claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) based upon an application filed in the United States on 8/2/02 is improper because a claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) cannot be based on said application, since foreign priority may not be based upon a United States application.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen Avila whose telephone number is 571-272-6678. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 7 AM to 3 PM (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Samuel J. Morano can be reached on 571-272-6684. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Stephen Avila



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Primary Examiner  
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*Handwritten signature and date:*  
3/31/06